GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION FOR CHEM 101

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Course Web Page URL: http://www.csun.edu/~hcchm003/101/101.html

Course Description

Chem 101 is the first-semester course of the year-long general chemistry sequence. It is a lecture/recitation course and must be taken with the co-requisite lab (Chem 101L). A student must earn a grade of “C-” or better in Chem 101 in order to satisfy the prerequisite for Chem 102. The emphasis in Chem 101 is on the introduction of fundamental chemical principles used to characterize matter. A solid understanding of these principles is required for success in Chem 102 and subsequent chemistry courses. The topics emphasized in Chem 101 include: chemical calculations, atomic structure, properties of matter, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, thermochemistry and chemical nomenclature.

Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percent of Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥ 80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>≥ 70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>≥ 50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>≥ 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recitation</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Total</td>
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Plus/minus grades will be assigned when appropriate. (for example, 78% = B+)

Each semester exam will test your mastery of material discussed in class since the previous exam. The tentative dates for the three exams, and the material covered by each, are noted on the lecture schedule. Please note that THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. If you miss an exam for a valid, documented reason, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Otherwise, a grade of zero will be assigned for this exam. Recitation quizzes will deal with current lecture topics and will be announced in lecture. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES.

The best way to prepare for the exams and quizzes is to develop good problem-solving skills. This can be done by taking an active part in the lecture and recitation discussions, by doing all of the homework assignments for MasteringChemistry and by answering the posted practice exam questions. Please consider the following course of study.

- Do a quick read of each assignment in the text before it is discussed in class.
- Ask questions (or write yourself a note to ask later) about anything that is not clear in class.
- Reread the assignment, taking notes about those sections that were emphasized in class. Keep a list of questions that you have about items that are not clear and be sure to get answers to them.
- When you have finished an assignment, test your skills by doing the homework and practice exam questions as if you were taking an exam. If you can’t answer a question, ask the instructor or a knowledgeable classmate for assistance. When you do the homework in this fashion, you are more likely to have success on the exams.
For those areas where you are having trouble with the homework, practice by doing similar, unassigned problems. There are more problems at the end of each chapter that are very similar to the problems assigned in MasteryChemistry that can be used for additional practice. It is much better to look at many problems with slightly different slants on the same topic, rather than memorize the solutions to a few problems.

This approach takes time. If you are not fully committed to this level of work, success in this class may be difficult to attain.

Drop Deadline: The last day to drop this course with instructor approval is September 12, 2008. Any request to drop this course after this deadline must satisfy University regulations (described in the schedule of classes) that require both "a serious and compelling reason" and "no viable alternative".

Grade of Incomplete: An incomplete (I) is assigned when only a small portion (for example, the final exam) of the required course work remains, but cannot be finished for valid and documented reasons. The student then agrees to complete this portion of work within one calendar year, at which time the final course grade is assigned. If the work is not completed, the "I" grade becomes an "F". Incompletes are not given so that a student may repeat the entire course with complete disregard of previous scores on completed course assignments.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is a very serious offense and will be dealt with according to the faculty policy described in the University catalog.